

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 873

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. John Wilson of Greenvale.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our State learned of the passing of John Wilson, the legendary sports photographer of WSM-TV; and

WHEREAS, John Wilson expertly chronicled the developments in Tennessee's sports landscape since 1972, capturing such monumental moments as the University of Tennessee Volunteer football team completing a perfect season and winning the national championship in 1998 and Darrell Waltrip's winning the Daytona 500 in 1989; and

WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, Mr. Wilson dutifully covered athletic legends, including race car driver Dale Earnhardt and Heisman Trophy-winning Eddie George of the Tennessee Titans; and

WHEREAS, John Wilson epitomized the consummate professional who worked assiduously to record great sports moments with vim and vigor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson served with diligence and dexterity as a sports photographer, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, He was a pioneer in the sports photography field and became the first full-time sports photographer in Tennessee, a position he held from 1978 until 2002, when he semi-retired from WSM-TV, after which he continued to work with the station on a free lance basis; and

WHEREAS, his peerless gifts for journalism and taking the right picture at the right moment culminated in his capture of the video which earned WSM-TV four sports Emmys and a dozen Tennessee Associated Press awards as the Outstanding sportscast in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his sports photography, Mr. Wilson was also a successful commercial photographer; and

WHEREAS, John Wilson was a gifted photographer and journalist, but he possessed an even greater gift for making friends; and

WHEREAS, after accepting Jesus Christ as his savior in 1995, Mr. Wilson displayed his Christian beliefs as an active and devout member of the Cainsville Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement, John Wilson lived on his grandfather's farm in the Greenvale community, which he purchased when his grandfather passed away and which served as the location of so many happy experiences during his childhood; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife, the former Harriett Kelley, whom he married on his birthday, December 22, 1990; the couple traveled through life hand-in-hand, sharing a love for the farm, horses, sports photography, and travel; and

WHEREAS, John Wilson was also the proud father of three sons, whom he adopted; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, seldom do men of John Wilson's eminent stature walk among us; his gifted photography, his consummate professionalism, and his bountiful sense of humor will be greatly missed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby pause to honor the memory and celebrated life of Mr. John Wilson, reflecting fondly upon his indelible legacy as a sports photographer of the highest caliber, his impeccable character, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our deepest sympathy and offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Wilson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.